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REFERENCE

COMPT 76-1849

22 NOV 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration  
Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Deputy Director for Operations  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: The 1979 Program

1. The DDCI believes the Agency can and must improve its long range planning. He wants more time for thoughtful consideration of important program issues before they are formally presented in the budget context. The need is all the more pressing because the Committee on Foreign Intelligence (CFI) intends to provide guidance levels on total resources even before we compile our initial budget estimates for the Program Year.

2. Accordingly, we have scheduled a 14 December EAG meeting to discuss selected issues pertinent to the 1979 budget. We plan to present the EAG with a limited number of specific issues or topics on which guidance is desirable, as well as an analytical paper discussing the impact on the overall 1979 program of alternative policy decisions on the various topics.

3. We have used the 1979 projections, by resource package, contained in the 1978 Program Submissions as the basis for selecting potential areas for discussion, analysis of program impact, and conformity with CFI guidance. Of course, many of the package submissions have been affected by program changes and by actual or organizational adjustments. But the submissions formed the basis of the tentative guidance figures we have received from the CFI, and, in any case, they are the only comprehensive 1979 data we have.

4. Attached to this memorandum are some potential discussion topics pertinent to your Directorate. We have provided explanations, most of them quite brief, of why we believe the proposed topics may be suitable for EAG examination.

5. The next step is yours. On the topics we have selected, we would like to have any additional details you can provide on specific plans for 1979 and on proposed personnel and funding levels, as well as your comments on any policy issues involved. Moreover, we would welcome your comments on any other topics or issues you wish to raise. In particular, we would like to know about any major expansion in individual resource packages which is now contemplated but has not previously been surfaced with us. We need these inputs by c.o.b. 1 December.

6. With your responses in hand, we will select topics for EAG discussion and prepare the necessary papers for the EAG meeting on 14 December.

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7. We see two likely results of the EAG discussions. On a general level, if the EAG concludes that the existing, tentative CFI guidance figure for 1979 is too low, we will negotiate an adjustment with the IC Staff prior to the issuance of revised guidance figures in January. More specifically, EAG policy and program decisions will be incorporated in guidance documents to be provided to you before you prepare your formal Program Submissions for 1979.

8. We want to emphasize that at this stage we are not asking you to take a firm position on any part of the 1979 Program. But the DDCI wants an opportunity to begin discussion of major 1979 resource questions now. The CFI will issue guidance in January. And any steps we can take now toward thinking ahead for 1979 will ease the pressures on the decision-making process that will confront us--and you--next July.



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James H. Taylor/  
Comptroller

Attachments:

- I. 1979 Topics--DDS&T
- II. 1979 Topics--DDA
- III. 1979 Topics--DDI
- IV. 1979 Topics--DDO

1979 Topics--DDAB. Secure Voice

This program is now phased over some 6 to 8 years due largely to constraints on available resources. The more rapid implementation of secure voice capabilities would seem to be in the best interests of the Agency. Can a persuasive case be made to speed up the program, and what would be the revised cost? Should attempts be made to seek the resources required to complete the program earlier than now scheduled?

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E. Technical Security

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A current examination and re-evaluation of the [ ] might be of some value. The examination should address not only the effectiveness of the current equipment, but also the implications for the future, including the budgetary impact.

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F. Polygraph

There is current concern about a possible Congressional prohibition on the non-operational use of the polygraph. The Office of Security clearly must have already examined the implications of this possibility, along with possible alternatives. The results of efforts in this regard might appropriately be surfaced in order that budgetary implications, if any, might be assessed.